National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Grenada Multiple Resource Area
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Property: Odd Fellows Cemetery/Confederate Cemetery

Classification Site

Owner: City of Grenada, City Hall, North Main Street, Grenada, MS 38901

Location: Corner of Cemetery and Commerce Streets.

Contributing Buildings: N/A

Non-Contributing Buildings: N/A

Description:

The Odd Fellows/Confederate Cemetery is Grenada's largest historic cemetery. Located on Cemetery Street the cemetery contains several hundred graves and markers. The cemetery is composed of two sections: the Odd Fellows Cemetery where many of Grenada's earliest and most prominent citizens were buried; and the Confederate Cemetery which contains the graves of approximately 150 Confederate soldiers.

The Odd Fellows Cemetery is entered through ca. 1890 cast iron gates from Cemetery Street. An oval shaped drive extends through the cemetery with graves and markers located on either side of the drive. The majority of graves in the cemetery date from between 1860 and 1920. Many monuments erected during this period have decorative detailing typical of Victorian graves. These include elaborate statuary, cast iron fences, above ground mausoleums and Woodmen of the World tree markers. Graves in the cemetery erected after 1920 are generally more restrained and less decorative.

Fifty yards northwest of the Odd Fellows Cemetery are approximately 150 graves containing the remains of Confederate soldiers who died in Grenada during the Civil War. The Confederate Cemetery is composed of orderly rows of simple rectangular stone markers with inscribed names and units of the soldiers. Both the Odd Fellows and Confederate Cemeteries are carefully maintained and landscaped by the city.

Period of Significance: ca. 1860-ca. 1920

Area of Significance: Art

Architect/Builder: N/A

Statement of Significance:

The Odd Fellows and Confederate Cemetery is one of Grenada's most important collections of 19th and early 20th century artwork. As Grenada's oldest

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cemetery it contains a wide variety of grave stones and markers. These represent significant artistic expressions of the Victorian period by local masons, stone carvers and other craftsmen.

The Odd Fellows cemetery was established in the 1840s as Grenada grew as a commercial and railroad center. Many of the oldest markers have deteriorated or the inscriptions effaced but a number of ante-bellum gravestones are extant. These are generally simple oval or rectangular forms with little decorative elements. Most markers in the cemetery were erected between 1860 and 1920 and display a wide variety of stylistic influences. Gravestones and statuary in this period were designed with detailing representative of Gothic, Romanesque and Classical styles typical of the period.

The graves and markers in the cemetery were erected by Grenada's most prominent citizens. Most of the the city's merchants and businessmen of the 19th and early 20th century are buried in the cemetery. The cemetery continues to be maintained and most gravestones and markers display their original detailing. The Odd Fellows and Confederate Cemetery remains Grenada's best example of 19th and early 20th century artwork.

Acreage: 8.5 acres

UTM References: Grenada Quad: 16/239700/3740500

<u>Verbal</u> Boundary Description and Justification: The boundary for the Odd Fellows and Confederate Cemetery is shown as lot 37 on accompanying Grenada County Tax Map 271 which is at scale of 1" = 100'. The boundary is drawn to include all property historically associated with the Odd Fellows and Confederate Cemetery.

